

# Property Tax Almanac

## 2012 Tax Year

January 22, 2013

### What's new for 2013?

The Gwinnett County **Tax Assessor's Office** is gearing up for another busy tax year. They have designed and implemented more tools for taxpayers to use in the property tax process. Here are the actions most property taxpayers should be aware of for the first quarter of 2013.

### Submit your Tangible Personal Property Returns online

Property owners now have the option to submit their Tangible Personal Property Tax Returns using the County's new electronic eFile solution. Owners of boats, airplanes, and businesses having fixed assets and/or inventory are required to file an annual Tangible Personal Property Tax Return.

Be sure to review your 2013 tax return package that was mailed on January 11 for instructions and your eFile secure login information.

Visit the Tax Assessor's **eFiling Tax Returns** webpage for step-by-step instructions to file your return electronically.



### Did you purchase property in 2012?



If you purchased property or have property that has had extensive repair, remodeling, damages, or a demolition in 2012, please file a Real Property Tax Return now through April 1. Filing a return will assist in verifying the property owner's mailing address for future notices and assist in the valuation process by providing purchase price and market information.

Property owners can submit the returns electronically on the **Filing Made Easy webpage**. Many new property owners are simply scanning their Closing Statement (HUD-1 form) and **emailing it** as an attachment to the **Tax Assessor's Office**. Please be aware that a tax return does not constitute an appeal or dispute of your tax value. An appeal may only be filed after receiving a Notice of Current Assessment.

### Notice of Current Assessments issued in April

The Tax Assessor's office will begin issuing Notice of Current Assessments to commercial and residential property owners on **Friday, April 5**.

#### Notice distribution schedule:

- April 6 - 8: Commercial and residential real property
- May 18: Tangible business personal property
- June 8: Marine and aircraft personal property

Taxpayers who previously registered to receive electronic notices will receive an email with a link to

a PDF of their notice. A copy of the notice will be posted on the Tax Assessor's webpage within a few days of issuance. If you'd like to receive your notice electronically, visit the [Filing Made Easy](#) webpage to register; a confirmation message will be sent to your email address. You can also change your email address and unregister if you no longer wish to get the assessment notice electronically.

The estimate of your ad valorem tax bill for the current year is based on the previous year's net millage rate and the fair market value contained in the notice that will be sent out beginning in April. The actual tax bill you receive will be based on the location of the property and which service districts apply. As a result, your actual tax bill may be more or less than this estimate. This estimate may not include all eligible exemptions. For more information on which local government is providing services and the corresponding service districts, please visit [www.gwinnettservicedistricts.com](http://www.gwinnettservicedistricts.com). More information about filing a 2013 property tax appeal will be provided in the next issue of *Property Tax Almanac*.

### New motor vehicle title tax effective March 1

Effective March 1, House Bill 386 removes the sales tax and the annual ad valorem tax on newly purchased vehicles. It replaces these taxes with a new title tax of 6.5 percent in 2013. Here's what you need to know:

- If you purchase a vehicle on or after March 1, 2013, you will pay the new title tax to the tag agent in the county in which you register the vehicle. You pay when you apply for the title and register the vehicle.
- The new title tax is not due every year but is due each time the vehicle is sold and titled. It applies to dealer sales as well as sales between individuals.
- The new title tax is based on a percentage (6.5 percent in 2013) of the fair market value of the vehicle, not the sales price, as determined by the Georgia Department of Revenue.
- You will continue to pay the annual ad valorem tax on vehicle(s) that you currently own.
- If you purchase a vehicle in Georgia between January 1, 2012, and March 1, 2013, (when the new program begins) you have the option of paying the new title tax instead of the current annual ad valorem tax. You have from March 1, 2013, until December 31, 2013, to opt into the new program. **Note: Vehicles purchased out-of-state are not eligible to opt in.**
- All other existing annual vehicle registration requirements, including annual tag renewal fees, decals, and emission tests (if applicable), remain in effect for all vehicle owners.

### About the *Property Tax Almanac*

The *Property Tax Almanac* provides information about the 2013 property tax process. Timely topics include: real property tax returns, Notices of Current Assessment, how to appeal, where to get e-forms and additional information, and tax billing and collection dates.

### Spread the word

Be sure to forward this message to your family and friends in Gwinnett County so they can sign up to receive information on real property tax returns. They can sign up or update their email newsletter profile at [www.gwinnettcountry.com](http://www.gwinnettcountry.com) or by [clicking here](#).

### Want to know more about where you live?

Gwinnett County Government wants to keep you informed about what's happening in your community. Find out what is going on each week through email newsletters that contain information that is important to homeowners and residents. To receive this information directly, update your email newsletter profile at [www.gwinnettcountry.com](http://www.gwinnettcountry.com) or by [clicking here](#).

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